Letters to the Editor

Hens and Haircuts

Confusion worse confounded hit the egg market during Easter week. I offer my congratulations to those who started it, by reducing the price below wholesale.

The road stalls were erasing their prices as were small stores, as some were selling as low as 40 cents a dozen, when they should have been 52 cents.

There seems to be no protection against this flagrant exploitation of our product. Why pick on eggs for their drawing card? Why not bread or buttter?

Our margin of profit is very slim after the feed bill is paid. Surely the laborer is worthy of his investment.

A haircut costs 3½ dozen eggs or a day's work for 40 hens and far more when reckoned up.

FRED RAYNBIRD.

R.R. 1, Royal Oak.

Fantastic Wages

From Professor Burchill's latest letter it would appear that he knows little about economics. He speaks of the Victoria taxpayers having "envious anger" at the thought of still further raises in wages to Victoria employees. Envy does not enter into the picture but rather regret and almost despair on the part of the taxpayers, particularly those who find themselves helpless in the face of rising costs and fixed incomes.

Two years ago I wrote that if a first-class constable were to receive the same percentage of increases for the next 35 years (his working life) as had been received since 1949 he would end up with $3,500 per month, with proportionate pension. Where would our economy be, subject to such fantastic wages? And where would the average citizen find himself with everything proportionately priced?

This comparison applies equally to all employees where a persistent percentage (compounded) of increases is allowed.

The trouble is the line has not been held "heroically" on the wages paid the city servants, but it has followed the trend and has given them "more money to spend on the leisure they now enjoy" the latter being the reason they gave why they should be paid more. They could not say it was because of an increase in the cost of living, as wages have far outstripped the cost-of-living index.

Perhaps Professor Burchill dreams of living in a socialist "paradise" where each takes in the other's washing.

FRANK H. PARTRIDGE.

1604 Belmont Avenue.

Cobra 'Stalks' Big City

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI—A snake dealer told police yesterday that a 12-foot king cobra, so deadly that "one drop of its venom would kill an elephant," was stolen from his truck on Market Street.

Police were not positive a killer snake was at large, but took no chances. They issued orders to kill it on sight.

Scott Lamb, 50, proprietor of "Jungle Land," said the hooded killer from India was in a tied flour sack that was inside a screened wooden box labeled "Cobra! Deadly Poisonous!"

Lamb said the cobra could strike through the sack.

"I've seen a cobra strike," he said, "and it takes under a half-hour for that venom to kill a man. One drop of it would kill an elephant."

He said it was not a publicity stunt.

He said that there was some doubt in his own mind, when he first discovered the box missing, that it had been on the truck.

But he went back to Morgan Hill and checked the snakes there and said he was positive he brought the cobra to San Francisco.

BURMA MISSIONARY

Adoniram Judson, an American missionary who died in 1850, translated the Bible into the Burmese language.

'Very Hot and Heavy' Weekend

40,000 Jam Outlets In Holiday Travel

An estimated 40,000 holidayers jammed roads, planes and boats in what Vancouver Island transportation authorities described as a "very hot and heavy" Easter weekend.

Princess Marguerite handled about 500 passengers and 45 cars on each daily trip between Victoria and Vancouver.

Figures were not available for CPR sailings between Nanaimo and Vancouver but officials said there was "standing room only" for passengers and that all car spaces were sold out days ahead of time.

Trans-Canada Air Lines flights from Patricia Bay to Vancouver accommodated more than 1,500 persons. About 790 persons went from Patricia Bay to Seattle. Number of air passengers travelling from the mainland to Victoria was not known to company officials yesterday.

Officials said more than 14,000 persons used Black Ball ferries between Departure Bay at Nanaimo and Horseshoe Bay on the mainland.

More than 700 persons and 450 cars were carried on the Sidney-Anacortes run by the Washington State Ferries.

Car traffic on the Island was "very heavy," according to RCMP.

Military Chiefs Warn:

U.S. Would Crush Reds in All-Out War

WASHINGTON (UPI)—U.S. military leaders have assured Congress that the United States would crush Russia if the Soviets started an all-out war in the immediate future.

"We would break her back," Adm. Arleigh Burke, chief of naval operations, said.

At the same time, a top secret U.S. intelligence report asserted that Russia apparently has no intention of deliberately starting a global war now, or at any time in the near future.

However, according to the report, the Soviets believe their growing military power ultimately will give them a chance to "blackmail" the United States in diplomatic negotiations over such issues as Berlin.

Burke emphasized that he based his warning to Russia on the current relative military might of the two nations. He said he would not want to give "an unqualified answer as to the future."

Other military officials, including defence secretary Neil H. McElroy, also insisted that the United States, even if hit by surprise attack, would have enough retaliatory power left to destroy the Soviet Union.

Their views were contained in heavily-censored versions of testimony before a House defence appropriations sub-committee last January and February. Testimony was released yesterday.

* * *

Missile Racing Rapped

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Defence Secretary Neil McElroy yesterday ruled out any "me too" policy of trying to duplicate Russia's output of intercontinental missiles.

In a speech to the Economic Club of Detroit he said American military planners have no intention of trying to follow a "mere tracing of an estimated enemy plan."

McElroy and Gen. Nathan Twining, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, made the same point in hitherto-secret Congressional testimony released yesterday.

McElroy said this country's capacity for deterring war is based on a mixture of the "means for delivery of great destruction." This, he said, includes the "greatest force" of bombers in the world, the only naval force of carrier-based bombers and tactical aircraft at bases close to Russia.

Counterfeit Find Outcrop of Melee

HULL, Que. (UPI)—Three Hull men will appear in court today on charges arising out of a fight between nine policemen and a dozen men and women at a police roadblock near here Sunday night. The fight led to the discovery of a set of plates used to print counterfeit $10 bills.

Fernand Lesage was charged with possession of equipment for printing counterfeit currency. Police said the equipment was found in the pocket of a suspect and more counterfeit equipment was discovered in one of two cars which were stopped at the roadblock.

The melee broke out as seven occupants ran away from two cars stopped at a routine vehicle check near here.

Coming Here

Miss Norah McCullough, western representative of the National Gallery of Canada, will make a two-day visit to Victoria next week while visiting Island communities.

Sponsored by the extension department of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, she will speak at Campbell River, Courtenay, Coombs, Nanaimo, Chemainus and Ganges. She will be in Victoria Sunday and Monday.

Money here for you

Don't miss The Financial Post this week:

—Check your investments against Nestor's growth securities.

—See how Compton handles his money-making accounts.

—Read "Market Comment" — a regular Post feature on the outlook for stocks.

The Post is on sale today.

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This minister of finance says—

"Yes, we can afford it!"

Mother's decision has not been arrived at lightly. Her peek into her purse is anything but easual—for as family minister of finance she is also keeper of the budget. She weighs every important purchase carefully, because she has a dozen places to put every dollar . . . and only so many dollars.

The same problem—a dozen places for every dollar—is a familiar one to the Minister of Finance at Ottawa. His budget is around six billion dollars. This very large sum of money is spent through various government departments.

It's no secret how the Minister of Finance obtains this money. He gets it largely in taxes from millions of Canadians like you. If he spends more than he gets from you, he must turn around and *borrow* from you the amount he has overspent . . . or else *create new money.*

The creation of new money is one factor that leads to inflation—when the dollar buys less and less. So, as a thrifty Canadian, you are wise to ask government only for those services you are willing to pay for . . . with taxes.

Personally *you* try to pay as you go, to live within *your* income. It's important that government try to do the same thing.

You want to live well now and to realize all your ambitions for the best possible future. That future is tied up with a sound dollar—a dollar whose purchasing power you can depend on.

A SOUND DOLLAR MEANS A BETTER LIFE FOR YOU

THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION NEEDS YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA